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must now logically follow. Under such circumstances it is reasonable to expect that the session of Congress opening in December will be potentially influenced by the administration in the direction of tariff reform. There will, naturally, be some opposition on the part of certain protected interests, but this selfish opposition should not prevail in swerving President Roosevelt from his accepted duty of carrying out the policies favored by the late President McKinley. Trade wars with foreign countries are likely to be in the nature of calamities to all the American people. These wars may be averted by reciprocity treaties operating to reduce the tariff.

COST OF COMBINES.
In summing up the price that St. Louis pays for the present combine, and has paid for previous organizations of gangsters in both bodies of the Municipal Assembly, it is seen that mere money losses are only a part of the total sacrificed by the selfish interests in control of municipal legislation.

A writer in an Eastern medical paper calls attention to an excess death rate in Philadelphia, attributable to the political machine that controls legislation. The corrupt combine in Philadelphia postponed filtration until it could control contracts and appropriations. Favored contractors collected garbage in a slish manner. Street cleaning was made a byword and a hissing. Crowded and unsanitary schoolhouses remain in use because the machine will not provide new ones. Even the Health Board itself is used as an adjunct of the machine. Inspection in every department is made a farce by the "pulls" of the political organization.

As a result of all these hindrances to sanitation, Philadelphia has a death rate of 21.2 per thousand—higher than that of any other large city in the United States east of the Rockies. This is in spite of a naturally healthy location and a robust people. Bad politics demands its bloody tribute.

St. Louis is not quite so much damaged, but suffers enough. Here the death rate is 17.11, under conditions that should make it lower than that of any other city. Chicago's rate is 14.68, with a sewerage system that is the laughing stock of the West.

Politics has kept St. Louis's rate higher than it should be. It was the Ziegenbein gang that prevented the construction of experimental filtration plants or even an investigation of needs. Politics prevents the passage of a law making consumption a disease subject to rules of the Board of Health.

St. Louis can charge against the present Combine a continuance of poor streets and a failure to establish sewer districts, both attacks on the public health. Methods that smack of the hold-up prevent the passage of the sewer bill. A bill providing for a renewal of the garbage contract was delayed until competition is impossible.

The death rate of St. Louis is held at a higher per cent than would be the case if combines such as the present one did not exist. Assuming that St. Louis contains 600,000 people, 1,458 more persons die each year in this city than in the same population in Chicago. Selfish politics can charge itself with much of this mortality. Combines do not pay either in health or wealth.

CUBA AND PALMA.
It has taken a long time for the Cubans to get together on a political proposition, both their own southern nature and the great variety of questions that have come before them since the Spanish-American War being ample excuses for the greatest divergence of opinions among selfish and partisan leaders.

Dispatches from Havana indicate that this formative period in politics has practically passed with the endorsement of the platform prepared by Senor Palma, the head of the Cuban Junta which did so much for the island's cause in this country. The platform was written in reply to a number of questions asked by the leaders in all the parties now existing in Cuba.

It is to Cuba's credit that so much confidence is placed in Senor Palma. He has not been aligned with any particular party throughout the period of his services to his country. All who know him respect him as a man with high ideals, much practical knowledge and intense devotion to Cuba. He is patriotically unselfish, neither asking nor expecting any reward for the good work accomplished under his direction.

Cuba can count itself fortunate in having such a thoroughly equipped man at command. The platform which he formulated is reported to be in harmony with the best thought in this country and Cuba on the many issues that will arise before the new Government. Out of twenty-five party leaders gathered in conference last week, all but two are reported to have agreed on this platform, with the purpose of supporting Palma as a candidate for the first President of the Republic. This action of the leaders is said to assure his election by a nearly unanimous vote.

Palma's chief objection to the use of his name as a candidate was that he would not have a majority in the law-making division of the Government to support his policies. The general acceptance of his views has cleared away this trouble. Cuba can anticipate an able, perhaps brilliant, first administration.

FOR HISTORY'S SAKE.
Public interest in the hearing now under way before the Schley Court of Inquiry naturally grows greater as the testimony heard by the court approaches nearer to the main point at issue, which is that of the conduct of Admiral Schley at the battle of Santiago and his discharge of his official duty throughout the naval campaign which culminated and closed with that stirring combat.

The importance of the facts to be brought out by the Schley Court of Inquiry's investigation cannot easily be overestimated. The truth of history demands that the correct story of the Santiago sea campaign shall be made apparent. There has been an unhappy difference between Admirals Sampson and Schley as to the facts. Naval officers have disagreed, some aligning themselves with Sampson and some with Schley. The situation is not conducive to historical accuracy.

It is apparent that the Schley Court of Inquiry is determined to bring out the truth. This is eminently gratifying. The personal element may best be eliminated in considering the work of the

court. Its duty is to ascertain the facts and to base its final verdict on the facts. Whether this verdict shall be in favor of Sampson or of Schley makes little difference. It should be so just and sound in its basis as to settle for historians all existing doubts as to the conduct of a naval campaign which was full of glory for American arms.

LEND A HAND.
With the appointment of a Smoke Inspector the abatement of the nuisance may be considered as begun. From the time when he assumes his office the public will expect to see visible results of the legislation that has been enacted within the year looking toward the clearance of dense smoke from the atmosphere.

It has been a long and uphill fight to get to the point where the appointment of an official for this purpose could be considered with any degree of assurance that success would attend his efforts. The failure that followed the attempt to enforce the old smoke ordinance would have been disheartening to a less determined community than St. Louis. The spirited citizens in the smoke abatement association rightly reflected the sentiments of the public when they determined to let no barrier stop them.

What this determination meant only the gentlemen who persuaded the General Assembly to enact a law governing the case know. Powerful efforts were made to defeat the measure, but the feeling that St. Louis was undertaking to have a World's Fair must have every practicable facility brought the desired success. Again, in the Municipal Assembly, an obstructionist House of Delegates had to be made conversant with the needs of the New St. Louis.

To Mr. Jones, as the first Smoke Inspector, will fall the next work in order. Laws have been made that seem to cover every contingency. In Kansas City convictions have already been secured for infractions.

It is hardly possible that any manufacturer or owner of a chimney that sends forth dense smoke will care to face public sentiment and fight the new law. An effort to defeat the purposes of the statute and ordinance can be taken in no other way than as an opposition to the World's Fair. Sooner or later, the smoke will be abolished. By united co-operation with Mr. Jones and his assistants, the work may be made easy and creditable to the city.

Said President McKinley in his Buffalo speech: "We must not repose in fancied security that we can forever sell everything and buy little or nothing." In trying to make the Republican party accept that doctrine Roosevelt will find a San Juan Hill of another kind.

President Roosevelt, a pillar in the Dutch Reformed Church and proud of his Dutch blood, should find it mighty hard to turn a cold shoulder to his liberty-loving Dutch kinsmen in South Africa.

Senor Palma certainly has elements of greatness. Any man who can get twenty-three out of twenty-five Cubans to agree with him is a star-spangled, triple-action and burglar-daisy.

Choosing between Lieutenant General Miles and Adjutant General Corbin, President Roosevelt is said to favor the former. This is bad news for the isolated federation of frumps.

It isn't a question of advantage to Schley or Sampson in this matter of the Naval Court of Inquiry's investigation. The main issue is to get at the facts for the sake of accurate history.

It is announced that Congress will make